

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT The Educational System in Albania

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the Albanian Ministry of Public Education is set up as follows:

a. Minister:

Kahreman Ylli, present Minister of Education, is also a member of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party; he is described as being approximately 30 years of age, and, [redacted] is of "long-standing and proven political faith." In 1947, he was a member of the Albanian delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. When he returned, he was appointed Minister of Public Education, replacing Haxhe Dume, a woman of about 35 years of age, the wife of an army general, who was relieved of her duties following the arrest and subsequent execution of Koci Xoxe. Informant adds that the Minister of Public Education is practically under the direct supervision of a Soviet consultant, whose office is located within the Ministry itself, and who is actually attached to that Ministry. The consultant never intervenes personally, but passes on his instructions to the Minister.

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b. Vice-Ministers:

- (1) Kadri Baboci, approximately 45 years of age, is Vice-Minister responsible for the administration of personnel. He is from Gjinokaster, where he was an instructor at the Lyceum. Formerly of different political faith (sic), Baboci enrolled in the Communist Party under the new regime, and was appointed deputy for the region of Gjinokaster. In 1947-48 he was appointed president of the Commission for Texts and School Programs. He was subsequently appointed Vice-Minister, replacing a certain Manile, who had left for the USSR for reasons of study. Baboci is characterized by informant as being a man of average culture and intelligence.
- (2) Shemsi Totozani, approximately 40 years of age, is Vice-Minister responsible for the organization of schools; according to informant, he has demonstrated ability in this field. Totozani had received a leave of absence from the Korce Lyceum, and had gone to study in France, but was unsuccessful in receiving any degree. He was

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-2-

a history professor in Gjinokaster and Vlone at the time of the Italian occupation, and was a partisan at the time of the German occupation. With the first "popular democratic" government, he became Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Education, at a time when the position of Vice-Minister had not yet been set up. Suspected of "deviationism", he was assigned to the position of principal of the Tirana girls' school; following the trial of Koxe, however, he was reinstated at the Ministry, and appointed to his present position. [redacted] one of the best-known figures of the Party, [redacted] scrupulously.

c. Directors General:

One director general is under the supervision of Vice-Minister Baboci, [redacted] no information on the individual now holding this post.

The other director general is Siri Shaplo, who is under the jurisdiction of Vice-Minister Totozani. Shaplo, approximately 50 years of age, is from Gjinokaster, where he was an instructor at the Lyceum. A "moderate" dabbler in politics, Shaplo was a partisan at the time of the German occupation.

d. Section Heads:

These men, who are under the supervision of the two directors general, have direct contact with the public.

e. Commission of Texts and School Programs:

This body is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Education, and is responsible for the compilation of texts and scholastic programs (a purely pro forma function, [redacted] as the commission merely uses Soviet texts which have been translated in their entirety into Albanian).

This commission is composed of professors of various intermediate and secondary schools, who manifest two trends of thought: one favors the use of Soviet texts translated in their entirety into Albanian, while the other favors the adaptation of the Soviet texts to the environmental conditions prevailing in Albania. The leader of the first school of thought is the president of the commission itself, Gihrie Ciu, a woman of approximately 30 years of age, who limps. She studied Pedagogy at the University of Florence, and during her administration all Albanian texts used were translations from the Russian. She is described as being of "violent political sentiment," and is said to be held in great esteem by the Soviets, whose language she speaks and writes.

The second school of thought is led by Kol Papa, a Chemistry instructor in the Pedagogical School of Tirana. Papa had been a pharmacist in Elbasan during the Italian occupation; he had studied at Pisa, where he had received a degree in Pharmacy and Chemistry.

2. This same unspecified informant stated in February 1950 that Marxism was being taught in Albanian schools instead of Philosophy, and great importance was being given to the theory of evolution in courses of Natural Sciences. The instruction of Western languages (English, French, Italian, etc.) was forbidden, but Russian, taught by a Russian language instructor, was compulsory in every gymnasium.
3. According to information received in August 1950 from a former Albanian schoolteacher, the Ministry of Public Education has in every Komitet an

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-3-

25X1

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Education Section, with two superintendents. In the Komitet of Erseke, Anestis Fourtzis (from Korce) and Gjon Verdoufis (from Elbasan) are the superintendents of elementary education and of the Unike school (sic - respectively?) located in Erseke.

- 25X1 4. [] there are elementary public schools, with four grades, in almost all the villages of Albania. In the Komitete and in some lokalitete there are kindergartens as well, and night courses for the illiterate.
5. Between the elementary schools and the high schools there are the Unike schools, which have three grades. The Unike at Bilisht has 150 students.
6. The former Albanian schoolteacher also gives the following breakdown of high schools in Albania:
- a. There are five or six gymnasias, each having a four-year course.
 - b. There is a commercial school in Tirana, which consists of a three-year course.
 - c. There are three or four teacher training schools, having a four-year curriculum. Elementary schoolteachers are usually appointed from among the graduates of these schools. There is also a three months' course which these teachers take in order to complete their studies. (Another report, dated July 1950, from a former non-commissioned officer, states that graduates of the academy for teachers must study three months at the Party school.**)
 - d. There is a technical (industrial?) school in Tirana, with a four-year course, where the students are prepared for various trades and professions.**
 - e. The agricultural school in Tirana has a four-year course.
7. In Tirana there is also a Pedagogical Institute which takes in teachers from the Unike schools.***
- 25X1 8. [] referred to above also states that, following high school education, the student in Albania can pass on to the university, which provides study in the fields of Chemistry, Physics, other natural sciences, Letters, and History-Philosophy. The course of study at the university lasts for two years, at the end of which time the graduates may automatically become instructors at the intermediate schools. The most brilliant students are sent to the USSR or other satellite countries east of the Iron Curtain to pursue their university studies still further. In order to enroll at the university, it is first necessary to be a member of the Party's organization. The offices of the university are on Kavaje Street (formerly Mussolini Street), Tirana.
9. The schoolteacher stated that education is free in the elementary schools, the kindergartens and the Unike schools. In the gymnasias, technical schools, etc., scholarships are given to certain students for their devotion to the Communist Party; these scholarships pay for the students' maintenance. School books are sold at low prices. They are filled with propaganda intended to appeal to the students, exalting the liberation movement of the partisans, lauding the regime in the Soviet Union, and praising the material and moral help given by the USSR to Albania. The pay of the teachers varies from 3,000 to 5,000 lek per month.

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